

PATENT
2501-1013

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Agostino LAURIA et al.

Conf. 8971

Application No. 10/573,648

Group 3635

Filed March 28, 2006

Examiner B. Katcheves

A STRUCTURE WITH MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS, USED AS A COVERING

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED OFFICIAL ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 8, 2009

Sir:

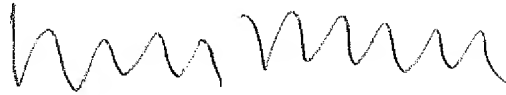
The Official Action of May 21, 2009, acts on claims
1-13.

In fact, however, these claims were canceled and were
replaced, in a preliminary amendment filed March 28, 2006, with
claims 14-26. Another copy of that preliminary amendment is
attached hereto, with a copy of the Patent Office receipt proving
its filing.

An action on the merits of the actual claims now in the case, is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Patch', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

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INT. APPLN. # PCT/IT2005/000463

Docket No. 2501-1013

ATTACHED IS A NEW NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF

INVENTOR(S): Agostino LAURIA, Massimiliano LAURIA and Alessandro LAURIA

TITLE: A STRUCTURE WITH MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS, USED AS A COVERING

FILING DATE: March 28, 2006

CONSISTING OF: ☒ Transmittal Letter (PTO-1390) ☐ SMALL ENTITY CLAIM

☒ Published Application (Non-English) ☐ English Language Translation

35 Total pages consisting of **22** Pages of Description, **4** Pages of Claims

8 Sheets Of Drawings and **1** Page(s) Abstract

☒ Application Data Sheet

☒ Preliminary Amendment

☒ Executed declaration (1)

☐ Paper Sequence Listing

☐ Not. of Sub. of Sequence Listing

☐ International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409)

☐ Amended sheets w/IPER

☒ Info. Disclosure Statement w/1449

☒ 4 Cited References

☐ PCT/IB/308

☐ Coversheet of Publication

☒ Exec. Assignment w/PTO-1595

☐ Computer readable Seq. List

☐ Article 19 Amendments

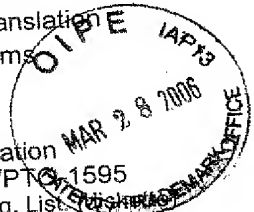
☒ International Search Report

☒ Check # **34660** for **\$490.00**

Other: _____ USPTO - PLEASE STAMP RECEIPT DATE AND APPLICATION NUMBER

BC/yr

Actual due date: 10/14/2007



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☐ Computer readable Seq. List. (diskette)

☐ Article 19 Amendments

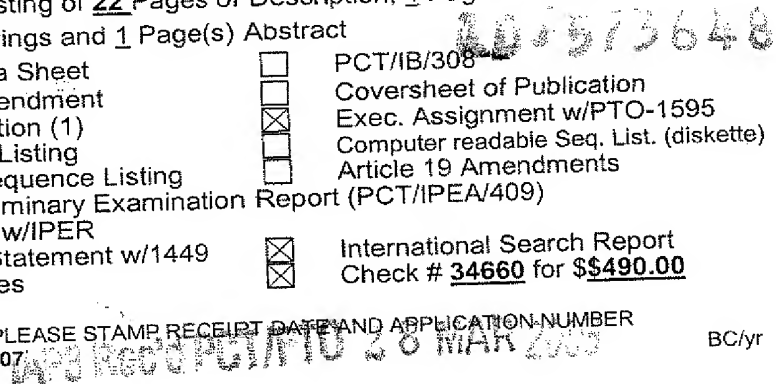
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PATENT

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Agostino LAURIA et al.

Conf.

Application No. **NEW NATIONAL PHASE**

Group

Filed March 28, 2006

Examiner

A STRUCTURE WITH MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS, USED AS A COVERING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 28, 2006

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

An **Appendix** is attached following the signature page of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the originally-filed Abstract of the Disclosure, and add the accompanying new Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13 (cancelled)

14.(new) A structure used as a covering, having an aseismatic function, comprising a plurality of uprights (701, 701) connected to horizontal support beams (101', 700) supporting at least one telescopic covering or telescopic roof, the latter being formed by several sections that can be inserted into each other in telescopic-like fashion

when the telescopic roof is opened;
said structure being characterised in that it is provided with vibration preventing means or aseismatic means (306; 307; 319) that are present in the interconnection regions between said uprights (701, 701) and the support beams (101', 700), on the one hand, and at the base of the uprights (701, 701), on the other, so as to allow an oscillation or rocking of the structure in all directions.

15.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, characterised in that it also has an anti-wind, or wind-protection function, and in that it includes for this purpose anti-wind means of the following kind:

butterfly valves (708) consisting of rotatable structurals which open and close respective holes or apertures (11) provided on the telescopic roof; rotation means (310, 311) which are inserted between a lateral edge of a telescopic roof and respective lateral structurals (702; 703, 704) so as to allow the transversal rolling movement of the structure in the eventuality of a strong wind, in such a way as to insure a certain degree of yielding of the covering in response to the gusts of the wind.

16.(new) A structure according to claim 15, characterised in that some (703, 704) of said lateral structurals (702, 703, 704) are movable and are received inside the support beams (700) and form trolleys apt to support and displace said sections of the telescopic roof, while other lateral structurals (702) are stationary and extend along the whole length of the structure.

17.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, which is characterised in that it includes drainage and guiding means for draining and guiding the water from the telescopic roof to the ground, said means including:

longitudinal channels formed inside the support beams (700) which for this purpose are upwardly open and allow the downflow of water from the telescopic roof to the uprights (701, 701);

longitudinal channels formed inside the uprights (701, 701), leading to containers formed by plates (1, 2) located at the foot or base of each upright (701, 701) where some (307) of said aseismatic means (306; 307; 319) are also located.

- 18.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, characterised in that it comprises stationary arcuate beams (22) which contain like a cage the whole upper telescopic roof and which preferably are fixed to said lateral outermost structurals (702) and/or to the support beams (700); wherein channels are provided within said stationary arcuate beams (22) for feeding pressurised water to be sprayed on the telescopic roof in order to clean it from debris/dirt, dust or the like.
- 19.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, including means (329, 330, 331) for restricting the angle of absolute oscillation of the uprights relative to the base plane defined by the telescopic roofs.
- 20.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, characterised in that said aseismatic means located at the feet or bases of the uprights (701, 701) are formed by shock absorbers (307) including a pair of arcuate leaf springs of music wire, that is, of high-quality high-carbon steel, combined with a shaped body of EPDM and with helical springs interposed between said arcuate leaf springs, and including also a plane base of stainless steel; said shock absorbers (307) being evenly distributed at the foot of each upright in order to allow oscillations of the respective upright (701, 701) in all directions.
- 21.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, wherein the aseismatic means used at the branching or interconnection points between the uprights (701, 701) and the support beams (101', 700) are of two kinds:

a first kind (306), consisting of three pieces of die-cast aluminium forming together a triangle and an arc of a circle of 90° or "quadrant", and with at least one internal spring (10) allowing the compression and expansion of the two external movable pieces of the aseismatic means (306);

a second kind (319), which is formed of a flat plate of aluminium surmounted by a double capital with an articulation joint, which at the same time acts as water collector and drainage means to direct the water towards the inner channels or passages of the uprights (701, 701).

22.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 18, characterised in that on a lower arcuate side (101") of said stationary arcuate beams (22) there are provided gaskets/seals (305) which perform a scraping action on the surface of the telescopic roof in order to clean it from dirt/debris, or the like, during the movement of the telescopic roof.

23.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, characterised in that the horizontal support beams (700) receive the following elements inside them for insuring space optimisation and improving the aspect/elegance of the structure:

- timing belts used for driving the movable trolleys/structurals (703, 704) associated with each telescopic roof;
- gearwheels (313), for directly transmitting the motion transmitted by the driving shaft (315, 316),
- transmission pulleys (313P) and belt tensioners (317).

24.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, wherein at least one of the telescopic roofs is made of transparent material.

25.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, wherein at least one telescopic roof is not transparent and includes layers of different properties in order to:

- a) resist to the weather/atmospheric agents (outermost layer);
- b)obtain a soundproof internal space with respect to the outside of the structure, even in the eventuality of rain or hail;
- c) insulate the internal space of the structure from outside temperatures;
- d) refine the style, that is improve the elegance of the structure (innermost layer).

26.(new) An aseismatic structure according to claim 14, characterised in that it is preferably formed, for the most part of it, of light metal, for instance aluminium, and its metallic structurals have isolated inner channels for the passage of electric cables or the like (900), these structurals being externally provided with slots or grooves (17, 24) for mounting the motors used to drive the telescopic roof, or for reinforcing a first structural by means of I-beam-shaped elements (320) longitudinally connectable to a second structural, or for other purposes.

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 remain in this application. Claims 1-13 have been canceled.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure of the drawings
- ☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- ☐ - a terminal disclaimer
- ☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- ☐ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document

A structure with multiple functions, used as a
covering

Abstract

A structure used as a covering and having different functions, includes several section bars (700, 701, 101') preferably made of aluminium or generally of light metal, which form uprights (701) and horizontal support beams (101'; 700). The structure includes aseismatic elements (306; 307; 319) at the interconnection or branching points between the horizontal section bars (beams) and the vertical section bars (uprights), and at the base of the uprights. At these points there are also provided elements (2, 303, 304, 308) to promote the downflow of rainwater. The structure is equipped with at least one telescopic roof that may be transparent or not. Additional functions provided by the structure are the anti-wind function, the water drainage from the roof, the self-cleaning function used for automatically cleaning the roof with water jets and scraping gaskets, etc.